



COOLING OFF WITH EYES CLOSED -- The opening weekend of the 2006 swimming season at Broken Arrow's Family Aquatic Center was a huge success, with capacity crowds most of the Memorial Day weekend. This youngster found a cool welcome at the bottom of one of the flume slides, but she kept her eyes closed!

Sanitary Sewer Rates Are Adjusted Down

An unusually hot and dry winter this past year led to many Broken Arrowans using much more water than usual for lawn care. That resulted in higher readings that normal when establishing sanitary sewer rates for the year.

After bills with the higher rate went in the mail in April, the City took measures to adjust those bills to a lower amount, based on an average from the previous winter. The adjustments to the sewer bills were made on the next ones that customers received.

"December, January and February are normally low-use periods for our water customers," said Assistant City Manager Dave Wooden. "Each year, residential sewer use averages are recalculated based on a customer's water use during those three months. This method of calculating sewer charges is one which has been used by the City for more

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ON THEIR MARK... -- The finish line must have looked far, far away as these little ones prepared to start one of the races at the Hershey Track and Field qualifying meet hosted by the City's Parks and Recreation Department at South Intermediate High School.

Next 'Let's Talk, BA' Forum Set For July 18 at South Library

The third in a series of "Let's Talk, BA" forums scheduled by the City of Broken Arrow will be held Tuesday, July 18, starting at 7 p.m. in the South Library, 3600 S. Chestnut. This program will be centered around Ward Three, and will be hosted by City Council Member Tom Chatterton of that ward.

The "Let's Talk, BA" series began last winter with Ward One, and continued with Ward Two in April. The forum for Ward Four will be held this fall. While each program focuses on the ward in which it is held, citizens from anywhere in the community are invited to attend.

In addition to the Council members from their ward, citizens will be able to ask questions of other City officials and staff members. They will also be invited to fill out a questionnaire asking for their input on how the City is serving them and what can be done to help municipal government work even better for them.

Light refreshments will be available at the program, which will last no longer than an hour and a half. City representatives will take the information they gather from those attending back to the various departments and put in motion actions that can answer some of those questions and concerns brought up at the forum.

It's Not Gilligan's Island, But We Do Have To Work Together To Survive

One of the best results of the 2003 countywide Vision 2025 campaign was the spirit of cooperation and sharing between and among the cities and towns of Tulsa County. Every bit as important as the brick-and-mortar projects (including our NSU-BA campus expansion) were the relationships formed, because they can be ongoing, benefiting future generations as well.

On May 23, the final meeting of a group of "Trendbenders" was held in Tulsa. For nearly a year, about one hundred dedicated business people, educators, health care professionals, Chamber of Commerce members, elected officials, members of the Young Professionals, and other interested citizens from all over the Tulsa Metro area have been meeting and working together. They've been forging a plan to continue the area-wide cooperation, get an identity for Tulsa (area), and restore economic and cultural vitality to the region, taking up where Vision 2025 left off.

The group called themselves "Step Up Tulsa," and despite the title, doesn't mean just the City of Tulsa, but all the Tulsa Metro area. Broken Arrow, Jenks, Sand Springs, and the other cities were invited to participate, and will receive benefits from the outcome. I was pleased to be a part of the effort, serving on the Economic Development subcommittee.

At the May 23 Celebration and Launch of Plans, the assembled group heard and saw reports and recommendations covering Economic Development, Health, Education, Sense of Place, and Pride. Now the harder job begins...to turn those creative plans and goals into reality. It is not a task that will be done in a month, a year, or really even five years. But it can be accomplished, with the help and support of all of us here in Broken Arrow, and our friends in Tulsa, Owasso, Bixby, and the other towns. Together, we can do truly great things!

Mayor Richard Carter



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Fireworks Permits Available June 19 - July 3

Once again this year the City of Broken Arrow will make permits available for the legal discharge of fireworks within the city limits during specific hours on July 3 and 4, provided certain conditions are met. Last year was the first time the City had offered the permits, and the program was considered a success.

The permits are being sold for \$20 from June 19 through July 3 in several City locations. They may be paid for by cash, check or credit/debit card at the One-Stop Center (220 S. 1st Street) or Utilities Office (116 E. Dallas) in City Hall; at the Court Clerk's Office in the Justice Center (2304 S. 1st Place), Youth/Community Center in Nienhuis Park (3201 N. 9th) or the Community Center in Central Park (1500 S. Main). They may also be purchased only by cash or check at the BA Police Department, 2302 S. 1st Place. Hours of sale at all of those locations (except for the two community centers) will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Hours at Nienhuis Park will be 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and at the Central Park Community Center from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

It is unlawful to sell or discharge fireworks within the city limits unless the permit is obtained. Only the use of Class 1.4g fireworks by individuals shall be allowed with the permit, and this year a small sign issued by the City to the permit holder must be placed in a location that is easily visible from the street.

Permitted fireworks may be discharged only between the hours of 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. on July 3 (a Monday) and July 4 (Tuesday). They must be discharged on a non-combustible surface of suffi-



BEFORE YOUR KIDS CAN DO THIS...If you have children who could benefit from swimming lessons, check out the City's Learn to Swim Program. Enrollment in the two-week sessions continues through July 25, when the final session begins. For information on the sessions, which are \$40 each, call 259-8436 or 355-0287.

cient size to contain the entire ground portion of the display, and not closer than 25 feet to any permanent structure. The adult permit holder in charge must be physically present for any other household member to use the fireworks. Discharge may not be made in any city or county park, nor on any highway, turnpike or street that has paving in excess of 26-feet wide, such as an arterial or collector street.

For more information on the ordinance and permit information, including the amount of fines, go to the City's web site at www.brokenarrowok.gov, and look for a link on the home page.

The revised permit ordinance was developed after several Fireworks Committee meetings.

Community Calendar

June 20 and 27 -- The final two Tuesdays in the Park concerts, featuring The Sound of Music and The Greyhounds. They start at 6:30 p.m. and are free to the public.

July 8 -- 2nd Annual Benefit Golf Tournament for the BA Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 170. 9 a.m. shotgun start at Battle Creek Golf Course. Proceeds benefit the BAFOP "Shop with a Cop" and "Buy School Supplies" programs, as well as Blue Star Mothers and other charitable events, such as the Oklahoma Special Olympics. Trophies, prizes and lunch provided by Texas Roadhouse. For information call C.B. "Buzz" Morrill at 451-8200, ext. 8281.

July 19 -- Drums of Summer competition returns to Memorial Stadium at Broken Arrow High School. 7:30 p.m. For more information go to the Drums of Summer web site, www.drumsosummer.com.

Aug. 1 -- Oklahoma Caring Van will be at BA Neighbors from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. to administer free immunizations for children ages 18 and under. A parent or legal guardian must accompany the child(ren) receiving the immunizations. Current immunization records are also required.

Aug. 1-16 -- Broken Arrow Neighbors School Supply distribution for financially challenged families. Donations of school supplies welcomed.

Aug. 1 -- 23rd Annual "National Night Out," a crime and drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch. Broken Arrow Police Department will work with citizen groups, neighborhood associations, civic groups, etc., to draw attention to crime prevention.

Aug. 4-5 -- Friends of Broken Arrow Neighbors Book Fair, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 315 W. College.

Water Bills.....

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than 20 years, and it's designed to ensure that people do not pay sewer charges on water used for outside watering."

Wooden points out that most other cities in this area use a similar system. The rate is established during those colder months of the year because almost always the vast majority of the water consumed then is used in the house and is drained through the sanitary sewer.

This past winter, however, there was a much heavier water consumption than usual, and that increase was directly related to the hot, dry conditions.

"There is no sewer meter to measure how much water actually goes down the sanitary sewer," Wooden explained. "Customers can reduce the impact of watering their landscapes by purchasing an irrigation meter and having it installed. Water which passes through the irrigation meter is not counted against the average water usage for sanitary sewer bills."

Starting with those mailed out in April, City sewer bills have increased, the result of that higher use for landscape watering. That, Wooden points out, has led to many residents finding that their sewer-use average has been set higher than in past years.

"The City has reviewed the situation and has decided to lower the average sewer usage to the average from the previous year," he said. "If the customer is new to the system, the average sewer bill will be this year's average or 9,100 gallons - whichever is lower."

BAPD K-9 Teams Dominate Field

An extremely hot day in May and a field of more than a dozen teams didn't prevent four Broken Arrow Police Department K-9 officers and their partners from dominating competition in Enid.

Hero, and his partner Officer Scott Oelke, won two first-place ribbons and a second-place ribbon, and Hero was given the title of "Top Dog" at the competition. Hero and Oelke took first in Obedience and in Building Searches, and second in Area Searches.

Officer Steve Smith and Dash took third in Obedience, third in Area Searches and third in Apprehension Exercises.

Detective Gayla Adcock and Kilo won second in the Narcotics Searches.

And Officer Tony LaCroix and Magnum took third in Building Searches and had an honorable mention for the toughest dog in the competition for completing the agility course.

The success of the BAPD in this competition came on the heels of an equally impressive showing by the Tactical Team in a regional event for those teams.



A HERO FOR SPECIAL OLYMPIANS -- Broken Arrow Police Officer Scott Oelke (far left) and his K-9 partner Hero were a big hit at the recent program held in honor of local competitors in the Oklahoma Special Olympics. Oelke and Hero later won top honors at a competition in Enid for K-9 units from throughout the state.

Watch Nienhuis Construction Live on TV24

Construction of the gymnasium and aquatics facility at Nienhuis Park is available live over a web cam linked to the City's web site (www.brokenarrowok.gov), and also on TV24, the City's municipal information cable television station (Cox subscribers in Broken Arrow). Construction video is shown for five minutes, each hour on the hour.